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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

FA 17
EC026

April 20, 1983

P b E

Dear Senator Bentsen:

Thank you for your further letter of April 5 concerning the human rights situation in Argentina on behalf of your constituents.

In your letter, you ask for additional information concerning the following individuals detained in Argentina: Mirta and Eduardo Menajovsky, Jorge Enrique Arrieta, Oscar E. Krilyzanosky, Ruben Sergio Pra, Jose Ehrlich, Juan Alberto Epstein and Ana Esther Koldorf. All were reportedly detained under special emergency powers granted to the Executive, so-called PEN powers, which were initiated during the period of civil disorder in Argentina in the 1970s.

According to information available to the Department Jorge Enrique Arrieta, Jose Erlich, and Ruben Sergio Pra have been released from PEN detention. Although the Argentine government has not published an authoritative list of those who remain in custody, we believe that the remainder of those individuals listed by your constituent continue to be held as PEN detainees.

Cases of PEN detentions are systematically reviewed by the Argentine authorities. The number of PEN detainees at the end of 1982 was 243 and new releases are occurring monthly. The Government of Argentina has stated that there will be no PEN prisoners held when executive authority is handed over to an elected civilian administration on January 30, 1984. PEN prisoners will either be released or tried in the civilian or military courts for crimes alleged to have occurred during the earlier period of civil disorder.

The Honorable
Lloyd Bentsen,
912 Federal Building,
Austin, Texas.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

() Release ☒ Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

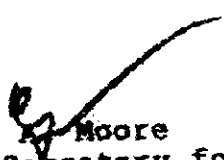
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

We have forwarded your request for additional information to our Embassy in Buenos Aires and have asked them to contact you directly should they have additional information on those individuals who remain in PEN detention.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely,


Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Enclosure:
Correspondence returned.

cc: American Embassy
Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Drafted: ARA/SC:RWA/ser:mas
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(Wang #3536) #0470509

Clearances: ARA/SC: [initials]
ARA/SC: [initials]
ARA: E Coolidge [initials]
[initials] SBartlett